

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12029 071813Z

70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 SCCT-01 /092 W

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R 071710Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6808

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG PLO

SUBJ: INTERVIEW WITH QADDUMI

1. EGYPTIAN WEEKLY AL-MUSAWWAR CARRIES FOUR-PAGE INTERVIEW
APPARENTLY CONDUCTED IN COLOMBO BY EDITOR LABIB WITH PLO'S
"FONMIN" FARUQ QADDUMI. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

A. SARG-HKJ RAPPROACHEMENT. FROM PALESTINIANS' LONG
EXPERIENCE WITH KING HUSAIN, PLO IS CONFIDENT THAT ALLEGED
SARG-HKJ RAPPROACHEMENT " AIMED AT PROTECTING SYRIA AGAINST
ISRAELI ATTACK THROUGH JORDAN" IS IMPOSSIBLE, SINCE HUSAIN
MAINTAINS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US AND US IS HOSTILE TO PLO.
(COMMENT: QADDUMI SEEMS TO BE SKIRTING THE QUESTION OF
VIABILITY NEW CONSOLIDATED NORTHERN FRONT CONCEPT. THAT SYRIA
SOUGHT POWER REALIGNMENT WITH DAMASCUS AT CENTER OF
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 12029 071813Z

EVENTS FROM BEIRUT TO AMMAN IS DIFFERENT PREMISE FROM

ALLEGATION THAT SYRIA SEEKS PROTECT SOUTHERN FLANK. END
COMMENT)

B. SOVIETS ARE PLO'S FRIENDS. USSR EXERTS POLITICAL
AND DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE ON SYRIA TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON.
PLO HAS NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO ANY SOVIET PRESSURE.

C. GENEVA. PLO " WILL GO TO GENEVA OR ANY INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON THE BASIS OF RES. 3236." PALESTINIAN NATIONAL
COUNCIL DECIDED (1974) TO SET A STATE OF PALESTINE ON
ANY LIBERATED LAND. "NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION IS ESTABLISHMENT
OF SUCH A STATE ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP". PLO HAS
NOT DISCUSSED GENEVA WITH SOVIETS - PNC RESOLVED NOT TO GO
TO GENEVA ON BASIS OF RES. 242. (COMMENT: IMPLICATIO IS
THAT SOVIETS AND PLO HAVE AGREED TO DISAGREE ON BASIS FOR A
GENEVA CONFERENCE. QADDUMI'S APPARENTLY STRAIGHTFORWARD
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PLO WOULD GO ON BASIS RES. 3236, WHICH
STIPULATES RECOGNITION PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS, IS MOST
INTERESTING PLO STATEMENT WE HAVE SEEN FOR SOME TIME, THOUGH OF
COURSE ISRAELIS BALK AT 3236. SO IS QADDUMI'S
REMARK THAT WEST BANK/GAZA STATE IS CURRENTLY "UNDER CONSIDERATION".
WE ARE UNABLE TO ASSESS WHETEHER THESE STATEMENTS, IF AUTHENTIC
REFLECTION OF PLO POLICY, REPRESENT NEW DEPARTURES.
WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEES VIEWS. END COMMENT)

D. PLO'S FRIENDS IN ISRAEL. ASKED ABOUT PLO'S "ISRAELI
FRIENDS", QADDUMI AGREED THERE ARE "PROGRESSIVE FORCES" IN
ISRAEL, "HEADED BY RAKAH", WHO ARE FRIENDLY.

E. US HOSTILITY. USG IS STILL HOSTILE AND
RECOGNIZES NEITHER PLO NOR OUR RIGHTS. PLO-USG CONTACTS
OCCURRED THROUGH EGYPTIAN AND TUNISIAN EMBASSIES
(IN BEIRUT) DURING EVACUATION. TALK ABOUT SECRET USG-PLO
CONTACTS ARE UNTRUE, TALKS OCCURRED ONLY IN CONTEXT OF
EVACUATION. ESCALATION MILITARY OPERATIONS IN LEBANON
IS DUE TO US SUPPORT FOR FASCIST ISOLATIONISTS AND WE HAVE
WARNED SYRIA OF US INTENTIONS.

F. NO SARG-USG COORDINATION. QADDUMI DOES NOT "THINK"
THERE IS COORDINATION. QADDUMI DOES NOT "THINK"
THERE IS COORDINATION; US SCHEME IS TO TRAP ARABS INTO
FIGHTING EACH OTHER (TO SAVE ISRAEL). SYRIA FELL INTO TRAP.

2. EGYPTIANS ARE PLO'S ALLIES. LABIB QUOTES PLO CAIRO
OFFICE DIRECTOR AS SAYING THAT PLO'S OPPOSITION TO SINAI II
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DOES NOT AFFECT SIGNIFIANCE OF EGYPT. PLO SPOKESMAN ABU
MAYZAR IS ALSO QUOTED AS LAUDING EGYPTIAN SACRIFICES
AND URGING RICH ARABS TO HELP IMPOVERISHED EGYPT.
MATTHEWS

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